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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 96 million eggs during January down 7 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 74 million table eggs and 22 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,543,000 birds, down 5 percent from 4,762,000 a year ago. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,113 eggs, compared with 2,163 in 2007.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.66 billion during January 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.52 billion table eggs, and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2008 averaged 345 million, down 1 percent from last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,220 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2007.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

During the month of January, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 20.2 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during January 2008 totaled 822 million, up 3 percent from January 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 675 million on February 1, 2008, up 4 percent from a year ago.